

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الرأي"

Jordan, Oman sign accord today

MUSCAT (Petra) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher arrived here Sunday and said he will sign an agreement with the Omani government aimed at promoting economic and trade links between the two countries. The agreement, which will be signed Monday, will provide for capital investments in both countries, facilitating import and export procedures between them and trying to achieve Omani-Jordanian integration in economic and agricultural affairs, the minister said. He said the agreement will also open the way for joint ventures in industry, and agriculture and will set up a follow-up committee to supervise the implementation of the agreement. Dr. Muasher, who leads a Jordanian delegation which includes representatives of the Amman chambers of industry and trade, is expected to stay five days in Oman holding talks with senior government officials.

Heart transplanted in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AP) — A Saudi Arabian surgeon performed the first heart transplant surgery in the kingdom on a two-year-old child today. The child, a two-year-old girl, was reported to be in good health after the operation. The operation was the first of its kind on an infant in the Middle East. When the girl's heart failed, the child was taken to the hospital. Hospital officials said that after the operation the girl was doing well. The first heart transplant surgery in the Arab World was performed by a Jordanian doctor in Amman's King Hussein Medical Centre.

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Kuwait opens trial of five Lebanese

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's state security court on Sunday opened the trial of five Lebanese accused of plotting to sabotage strategic installations. The court heard the case of Abdul Aziz Ali Karim, 37, and Abdullah Ali Karim, 26, who were charged with making and using explosives intended to blow up the Doha power and water desalination plant near Kuwait City. Hassan Nassarallah, 37, and Ahmad Youssef Muzay, 35, were charged with being part of the same conspiracy. The prosecutor asked for the death sentence or a heavy prison term.

Syrian transport minister due today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian Transport Minister Youssef Al Ahmad is due here on Monday at the head of a Syrian delegation to attend meetings of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company. The meetings begin Monday. The Syrian minister will also hold talks with his counterpart Farid Obeid on issues related to the company and on cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport, local press reports said. The meetings are scheduled to deal with the company's operation plan for 1986, its budget for 1986 as well as its activities during the past year.

Mubarak, U.S. officials discuss aid

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak held separate meetings on Sunday with U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Armitage and U.S. Ambassador Charles Wilson, and discussed U.S. economic aid and the situation in the Middle East. Mr. Armitage made a statement after the meeting, but Mr. Wilson, (Democrat, Texas), said: "You know we have a serious budget problem in the United States. We are going to make very strong efforts to maintain the Egyptian level of aid as best we can." U.S. military and economic aid to Egypt this fiscal year amounts to \$2.1 billion, plus \$250 million in supplemental aid.

Arab radio operator attacked in Rome

ROME (AP) — The Egyptian-born operator of an anti-Libyan, anti-Iranian Arabic language radio station here was shot and wounded by five men waiting for him in ambush, an Italian news agency reported Sunday. Quoting police, the ANSA news agency said that Mohammed Radda, 50, was shot once in the stomach with a 38-calibre revolver as he left the radio station to go home early Sunday morning.

Speculations rise on Israel-Africa ties

TEL AVIV (R) — A senior Israeli foreign ministry official left for a tour of African countries on Sunday, prompting speculation that diplomatic ties with several black African countries may soon be restored after a 13-year break. The ministry said Director-General David Kimche left for a routine five-day visit to Israeli representations in Africa.

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Iraq launches major assault to evict Iranians from Fao

Combined agency dispatches

FIERCE GROUND, air and sea battles raged near the northern tip of the Gulf on Sunday after Iraq launched a three-pronged assault to evict Iranians from the strategic Fao port on the Shatt Al Arab waterway.

Reports from the front on Fao said Iraq was pressing home the attack on Iranians who crossed the Shatt Al Arab last Sunday and occupied parts of the disputed island which used to serve as Iraq's main oil terminal before the outbreak of the Gulf war in 1980.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said Iraq forces hit Iranian positions with thousands of tons of bombs and missiles during the heaviest fighting in the Gulf war last week.

Iraqi warplanes, far superior to their Iranian counterparts, flew more than 300 sorties on Sunday against Iranian troops on the Iraqi west bank of the Shatt Al Arab, an Iraqi military spokesman said. INA said thousands of tons of bombs and missiles struck Iranian positions, while Iranian bodies littered the battlefield after some of the fiercest fighting of the conflict, now in its sixth year.

An Iraqi war communiqué broadcast by Baghdad Radio said Iraqi war planes and navy vessels destroyed and sunk a total of 53 Iranian large and small vessels since Saturday, when it began to attack Iranian "naval targets" bringing in supplies and reinforcements to Fao.

The air and naval attacks in the

in repelling the enemy offensive. Foreign diplomats, meanwhile, told Reuters satellite surveillance showed an Iranian buildup at Susangerd and other border towns near the Huweizeh marshes north of the southern Iraqi port of Basra.

They suggested the Iranians might launch an attack there in case pressure on their troops further south.

Iraq said two days ago it had recaptured more of the man-made Majnoon islands in the Huweizeh marshes taken by Iranian troops in early 1984. The islands were built to exploit rich oil deposits under the marshlands.

On the southern front, Iraq said anti-aircraft gunners shot down an F-4 Phantom fighter-bomber, the fifth Iranian warplane reported shot down since the start of the offensive.

Iraq also said its warplanes raided the Iranian mainland oil complex at Ganavah. Air strikes were also flown against Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal in the northern Gulf southwest of Ganavah on Saturday.

Tehran Radio quoted an Iranian communiqué as saying the Iranians attacked under cover of darkness again Saturday night and advanced several kilometres towards the Iraqi naval port of Umm Qasr.

The port lies on the Khawr 'Abd Allah Channel bordering Kuwait and 55 kilometres west of Fao.

Foreign diplomats said the offensive close to Kuwait indicated Iran was backing away from a purely diplomatic approach to sep-

arating Iraq from its Arab Gulf supporters.

Iraq's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported 2,000 Iraqi troops were killed in the battle west of Fao during the night. This brought to 12,700 the total number of Iraqi soldiers Iran claims to have killed since it launched its offensive across the Shatt Al Arab waterway last Sunday.

Iraq in turn said its forces killed more than 25,000 Iranian troops in counter-attacks against positions occupied by the Iranians along the Iraqi western bank of the waterway extending from Fao in the south to the Huweizeh marshes.

The claims of the combatants cannot be verified because neither side allows foreign journalists into the war fronts.

IRNA said heavy ground and air battles continued northwest of Fao and east of the Khawr 'Abd Allah inlet which leads to Umm Qasr.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz left for Moscow on Sunday for talks with Soviet officials on his way to New York, where the U.N. Security Council meets on Tuesday to discuss Iran's new offensive.

INA said Mr. Aziz was expected to meet Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze Monday morning. It gave no details, but said Mr. Aziz would leave for New York after a one-day working visit.

A Kuwaiti newspaper on Sunday called for a joint Arab military and political stand against Iran.

Jordanian personalities appeal for Syrian action to end war

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fifty prominent Jordanian personalities appealed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Sunday to intervene and exert all possible efforts to stop the ongoing war between Iraq and Iran. The appeal was contained in a cable sent to President Assad. It was signed by presidents of professional associations in Jordan, former ministers, parliamentarians and several Palestine National Council (PNC) members.

"We have been following, for the last few days, the Iranian invasion of the territories of our brotherly country of Iraq," the cable said. "Iran itself proclaimed that

the invasion aimed at taking over the island of Fao and the city of Basra and has mobilised hundreds of thousands of troops for that purpose," it said.

The signatories expressed "anguish and pain" and said they felt "devastated" on behalf of the Jordanian people at the "continuous Iranian rejection of efforts to end the war... and its determination to occupy Iraqi territories."

The cable said the war and the Iranian position "only benefits Israel... and damages brotherly Islamic relations."

"Fully aware and deeply convinced that one of the major means to end this war and restore the peace of mind of the Arab Nation, which has been burdened with anguish over the Arab future and

destiny, is an interference by brotherly Syria, the bulwark of Arab nationalism, in the way it sees most fit to end the war," the cable said.

The cable expressed confidence that Mr. Assad and the Syrian leadership would respond positively to the appeal, "which reflects the conscious of each and every Arab citizen."

The cable also called for a reconciliation between Syria and Iraq "to face the Zionist and imperialist aggression against the Arab Nation."

Following were the signatories to the appeal: Mr. Ibrahim Baker (prominent lawyer and PNC member), Sul-

(Continued on page 3)

Saudi, Sabah meet Assad on Gulf war

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait arrived here on Sunday amid speculation they were to ask Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to cease his support for Iran against Iraq.

Arab diplomatic sources quoted by AP said the Saudi minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal, and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad, also were to urge Mr. Assad to live up to the stipulations of the Arab League common defence charter and back Iraq against Iran.

Sheikh Sabah told Reuters upon arrival here that Kuwait is increasingly tense because of the close proximity to its border of the current Iranian offensive into southern Iraq.

"We have to be tense. We have to put out a red light," he said. The two Gulf ministers immediately went to meetings with Mr. Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara, the official Syrian News Agency said.

"This (diplomatic) effort is not aimed against anybody, but for all in the region as a whole," Prince Saud said.

AP quoted its sources as saying the two ministers were to talk to Mr. Assad on behalf of the seven-power Arab committee, which met in the Iraqi capital last Wednesday to devise a plan for combined diplomatic action against Iran.

The committee was to approach Libya and Algeria to intercede with Iran for a cessation of its current offensive.

The Jordan Times adds: Foreign Minister Tariq Al Mawaz left Amman for London and New York on Sunday to follow up contacts for holding an urgent session of the U.N. Security Council to discuss the Gulf war situation. Jordan is a member of the seven-member Arab League committee which met in Baghdad last week and called for urgent Security Council action.

According to U.N. sources quoted by international news agencies, the council is expected to meet Tuesday.



KING RECEIVES U.S. SENATOR: His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday confers with U.S. Senator Charles Mathias, (2nd from left) who is currently on a visit to Jordan. In a meeting attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai (right), Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker (left). Earlier on Sunday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also received Mr. Mathias (Republican, Maryland) and briefed him on the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. Mr. Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker also held talks with the U.S. senator, who ends his visit to Jordan on Monday (Petra photo)

Mubarak and Arafat hold fresh talks on peace process

CAIRO (Agencies) — President Hosni Mubarak and Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held two hours of talks here on Sunday in a fresh bid to break the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts.

The two leaders made no statements after their talks, but Egyptian Prime Minister Ali Lutfi, who joined them at a working lunch, said they would continue their discussions on Monday.

Mr. Lutfi, who met Mr. Arafat separately on Saturday, gave no other details and a PLO spokesman would say only that further talks were scheduled.

Official sources said Sunday's discussions dealt with three formulas proposed to Washington by the PLO for its acceptance of United Nations Resolutions 242 and

338. The contents of the proposals have not been disclosed and Mr. Arafat, asked on Saturday if he was moving to accept the two resolutions, said: "I think this is under discussion. We have already presented three formulas to the United States on this point."

Israel rejects PLO participation in any peace talks and Washington insists the organisation must first recognise the Jewish state's right to exist, which would be implicit in its acceptance of 242 and 338.

The PLO says its acceptance of 242 and 338 would come only in explicit U.S. endorsement of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination within a confederation as outlined in the Feb. 11 accord between Jordan and the PLO. The U.S. refuses to do this.

Mr. Arafat's talks here coincide with what was seen as a shift in U.S. policy on the Palestinian issue, signalled by a statement by the State Department last week that Palestinians are entitled to more status than mere "refugees," which is how they are described in the U.N. resolutions.

Speaking to reporters on Saturday, Mr. Arafat described the U.S. statement as an important and positive step, "the first time the United States talks about Palestinian legitimate rights."

The Palestinian News Agency, Wafa, reported that the Soviet ambassador to Cairo met Mr. Arafat on Sunday and delivered to him a message from the Soviet leadership. Wafa did not give details.

Two bombs explode in Jerusalem suburbs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Bombs exploded on Sunday near a bus stop and outside a health clinic in north Jerusalem, Israeli police said. There were no casualties or damage.

Police said commandos may have planted the bomb at the bus stop used by hitchhiking soldiers travelling to the occupied West Bank. They did not believe commandos planted the second bomb, found in a rubbish bin next to the health clinic.

It was the fifth and sixth bombing attacks in the area over the past four days.

On Friday, six people were wounded when a bomb went off on a bus in Tel Aviv.

On Thursday, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) issued a communiqué in Tunis claiming responsibility for two explosions in which there were no casualties.

Aquino calls for civil strikes against Marcos

MANILA (Agencies) — Corason Aquino, denied her claim to the presidency, called on Filipinos on Sunday to stage strikes, boycott government media and withdraw funds from banks in a civil disobedience campaign against President Ferdinand Marcos' government.

Mr. Marcos, at a news conference held as Mrs. Aquino addressed an outdoor rally of more than one million people, said he would watch to see whether Mrs. Aquino succeeded in such a campaign.

Mr. Marcos also announced the long-anticipated resignation of armed forces Chief of Staff General Fabian C. Ver, 66, saying he would be temporarily replaced by deputy chief Lt. Fidel V. Ramos, 57.

The resignation of Gen. Ver, broadcast over portable radios in the crowd listening to Mrs. Aquino, brought applause and horn-blowing.

"Although unarmed, I feel like the young boy David, prepared to face the giant Goliath. If Goliath refuses to yield, we shall... escape," Mrs. Aquino said.

Mrs. Aquino told her cheering supporters in Manila's Luneta park to go on strike on Feb. 26, the day after the inauguration of Mr. Marcos, who was proclaimed winner of the Feb. 7 presidential election which the opposition and church leaders describe as an unparalleled fraud.

Gemayel in Paris for talks

PARIS (R) — Lebanon's beleaguered President Amin Gemayel arrived in Paris on Sunday for a surprise visit widely seen as a bid to win international support to head off mounting pressure for his resignation.

French officials said Mr. Gemayel would attend the first summit meeting of French-speaking leaders which opens on Sunday and hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand.

Leaders from over 40 Francophone nations and regions are attending the summit, giving Mr. Gemayel plenty of scope to canvass support for his embattled position.

Presidential sources in Beirut said Mr. Gemayel, repeatedly urged by his opponents to resign, would discuss Lebanon's deepening political crisis with Mr. Mitterrand.

"This is the main reason for the visit," one presidential official said.

Mr. Gemayel, pressed to quit by Muslim and Christian leaders for his refusal to back a Syrian-mediated peace pact, has insisted he will stay in office until his term expires in 1988.

In a sign of growing impatience over Mr. Gemayel's stance, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt said there had to be a winner and a loser in the civil war that has wracked Lebanon for 10 years.

"Closing the Lebanese dossier on the basis of 'no victor, no vanquished' is just delaying political and military explosions," Mr. Junblatt told a rally near Beirut. Political sources said Mr. Gemayel made the decision to go to France only hours before his departure. It was the president's first trip outside the region since October, 1984.

Shi'ite Muslim militia leader Nabih Berri on Saturday repeated demands for Mr. Gemayel's ousting. "I still insist on cutting short the president's term," Mr. Berri told reporters. Sources in Mr. Berri's Amal militia said a "military solution" was not ruled out.

By Alistair Lyon
Reuter

Mr. Arafat is said to have close

Cinemas close at six p.m. and pavement cafes empty at dusk thanks to a fundamentalist ban on alcohol.

The sides are trying to reach agreement on terms for inter-

Benesti. It was not known if they were related.

told Reuters he estimated the new controls would cut abuse of Cans

Southern groups have called for

Police said they had still not discovered who was responsible for

The sides are trying to reach agreement on terms for inter-

Benesti. It was not known if they were related.

21:00	Evening Show Concl.	Summary 17:30 News 17:50 Newline
21:05		17:30 Music USA 18:00 News 18:10

Spain by official foreign assistance groups from most of the Mexican countries and a

20:30	Baghdad (IA)	U.S. dollar	355.5	358.6
21:15	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)	W. German mark	151.9	153.1

Commitment	700 / 500	Change (1st 100%)	280 / 200
		Turnover	70 / 50

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Hamzeh outlines benefits of new health regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — New amendments to the civil health regulations in Jordan are designed to improve medical services to the public, Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said in a television interview Sunday evening.

The minister, who was commenting on a cabinet decision taken Sunday, said that for the first time in Jordan the health minister has been empowered to administer private hospitals if there are insufficient beds in government hospitals. Under the amendment government employees, who finance the public health service through contributions from their salaries, can enjoy this right, he said.

Also for the first time, the health minister has the right to exempt needy patients from paying the cost of their medical treatment at government hospitals, provided they produce evidence supported by the Ministry of Social Development that they cannot pay.

According to the minister, the amendments also offer the chance to the family of a deceased government employee to enjoy medical treatment at government hospitals for three years free of charge.

Also during its normal session on Saturday, the cabinet has approved an executive programme for the implementation of a Jordanian-Egyptian agreement on cooperation in information affairs in 1986, 1987 and 1988.

The two countries undertake to cooperate in training personnel, exchanging programmes and expertise and helping each other in radio and television transmission services. The information ministers of Egypt and Jordan signed a protocol for the implementation of the programme in Cairo last week.

The cabinet also approved a programme of cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) for the coming five years. Under the agreement, UNICEF will provide a \$1 million grant to health authorities in Jordan between 1986 and 1990. The cabinet authorised Planning Minister Abdullah Nusur to sign the agreement, which will be carried out in cooperation with social development and health authorities in Jordan.

During his session the cabinet decided to convene the second Jordanian expatriates conference in Amman during the coming summer.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday opens a British higher education fair at the University of Jordan (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan opens higher education fair, calls for more ties with British universities

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday called for further Jordanian-British cooperation in higher education and said that academic degrees awarded by British universities are respected around the world, although such degrees have been facing increasing competition.

Prince Hassan, who was opening a week-long British higher education fair at the University of Jordan, said that Jordan remains open minded to new avenues of cooperation between Jordanian and British universities to enhance Jordan's technological and scientific capabilities. Jordan has established a number of high-level scientific centres and hopes to bolster its cooperation with British universities in the Kingdom's drive to improve the quality of education, Prince Hassan pointed out.

In his speech, Prince Hassan called on British universities to revise the rate of fees they charge Jordanian students so that more Jordanians can seek higher education in Britain. He also called for increasing the exchange of visits by students and teachers from both countries and launching joint studies and researches designed to serve the local community. Prince Hassan expressed hope that the functions to be held during the week would promote academic cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to higher education in Jordan, Prince Hassan said the three Jordanian universities and the 46 community colleges in the country have been absorbing large

numbers of Jordanian students seeking higher education. The latest statistics indicate that Jordan has one educational institute for every 50,000 students, compared with one for 62,000 students in the United States, the Crown Prince said adding that this reflects development in education in Jordan over the past three decades.

In Jordan, a doctorate degree is required not only for teachers at universities but also for those teaching at community colleges, Prince Hassan said.

He went on to say that higher education is becoming more expensive for the state which has been covering most of the education expenses at universities. Non-Jordanian students who form nearly five per cent of the total number of students at Jordan's universities, pay the same fees as their Jordanian colleagues, Prince Hassan pointed out.

Jordanian universities, he added, have made remarkable advances in engineering, agriculture and industrial research as well as archaeology and antiquities, and they are highly regarded throughout the Arab World.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony was Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, president of the University of Jordan, who welcomed the participants to the meeting and referred to two agreements which the university recently signed with the Universities of London and Glasgow.

He said that the University of Jordan has become a leading regional centre and that the newly

established Faculty for Higher Studies has emerged because of the need to provide the local community with highly qualified personnel.

British Council Representative in Amman David Latta made a speech voicing appreciation to Prince Hassan for patronising the fair. He reviewed higher education developments in the United Kingdom and said only two per cent of Jordanians going to study abroad end up in British universities, despite the close ties between the two countries. Mr. Latta voiced hope that more agreements will be concluded between British and Jordanian universities and called for more British experts to help Jordan develop its higher education.

After the speeches, Prince Hassan watched a documentary on higher education in Britain and opened an exhibition of higher education materials including videos, prospectuses, and information sheets designed to answer all types of enquiries about first degree and postgraduate degree courses, tuition fees, accommodation and the cost of living in Britain.

The week-long fair is designed to foster links between Jordanian and British institutions of higher learning focusing on the exchange of academics, joint research programmes and special arrangements for Ph.D. courses.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sarwat and deans of several university faculties attended the opening ceremony.

Orbis starts free eye operations today

Flying eye hospital, local staff to exchange skills, techniques in surgery

By Rama Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Medical staff of Project Orbis, the U.S.-based "flying eye hospital," Sunday demonstrated their surgical skills and ophthalmological equipment as they welcomed a group of senior Jordanian officials, key-ophthalmologists and reporters for a familiarisation tour on board their DC8 airliner at the military airport in Marqa.

Orbis arrived here Saturday from Baghdad for a three-week stay to exchange medical skills in ophthalmology. Doctors will be operating side-by-side with Jordanian doctors as well as exchanging hands-on surgical techniques during operations on local patients.

Ophthalmological surgery aboard Orbis will start Monday on local eye patients who have been pre-selected from the King Hussein Medical Centre (KHMC), the government-run Al Bashir Hospital and the University of Jordan Hospital.

Eye patients will receive free medical treatment on board the plane, but special cases, who need operations to be carried out in local hospitals have to pay for the hospital's expenses but not for the cost of the operation.

Project Orbis visited Jordan in 1983 on an invitation from Her Majesty Queen Noor. It is a private, non-profit international organisation, whose objective is to combat world blindness through an international exchange of skills and information dissemination between medical personnel.

There was no precise figure on the number of Jordanian patients expected to be treated and examined by Orbis during their 21-day programme in Jordan. Dr. Ibrahim Ayshe, head of the eye department at the KHMC, said that a few hundred patients will be examined. One of Orbis' three ophthalmologists, Dr. Stanley Walker, expects the number of patients to be four or five a day over five days per week. This amounts to an average of 70 eye patients during the mission, he told the Jordan Times.

During their three-week stay in Baghdad, Orbis carried out 41 eye-operations on board the airliner and 13 eye-surgeries in Ibn Al Haiham Hospital.

Government proposes rise in fees for work permits

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has reportedly submitted to parliament an amendment to the labour law which, among other things, raises the fee for a work permit for a non-Jordanian Arab to JD 25 instead of JD 10, and for a non-Arab to JD 75, up from JD 30 annually.

A report in the local Sawt Al Sha'ab Arabic daily said the amendment is designed to enable the Ministry of Labour to control the labour market in Jordan and to help find jobs for unemployed Jordanians, estimated at 40,000.

In an interview with the newspaper, Mr. Mohammad Hadidi, director of the Amman Employment Department, said that the new set of fees would be imposed in March. The new amendment, he said, empowers the Ministry of Labour to send teams to carry out inspections at different businesses and companies to ensure that ministry regulations are respected. Employers found to be employing non-Jordanians in violation of the law will be fined up to JD 300 and could be imprisoned, Mr. Hadidi said in the interview.

Job lists

He said that to help Jordanians find work, ministry teams will tour different organisations and will list vacant posts and job opportunities for Jordanians. When the lists have been compiled, unemployed people will be informed of the vacant posts.

Mr. Hadidi said that as of March 1, non-Jordanian workers caught violating the Ministry of Labour law will be fined JD 75 maximum for each month delay in renewing the work permit or could be ordered to leave the country, with their travel expenses covered by the employer.

Work permits, he said, will be issued to non-Jordanians only if they prove to be capable of handling jobs and their application should be supported by a merit certificate from the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC).

According to the director of the Amman Labour Office, Mr. Ahmad Al Shawabkeh, from now on, no work permits will be issued to non-Jordanians seeking secretarial, clerical and accountancy jobs or to store keepers, teachers and workers in specific construction jobs. He said sufficient numbers of Jordanians are now available to do these jobs.

Opening ceremony

Prior to the familiarisation tour, the Royal Medical Services hosted an opening ceremony at the airport. Speakers in the celebration were Dr. Ayshe, KHMC Director General Da'oud Hanania, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, Jordan Ophthalmological Society (JOS) President Cameron Nabil, Orbis' Director of External Affairs Penny Staples and one of the projects' three ophthalmologists, Dr. Stephen Slade.

The five speakers described Orbis as a very efficient programme which has served as a tool to combat blindness through an international exchange of skills between medical personnel. According to an Orbis press release, there are 42 million blind people and another 500 million people who suffer from potentially blinding eye disease. "If only current techniques and knowledge were available worldwide, two-thirds of this blindness could be eliminated," said Ms. Staples.

Ms. Staples told her audience that Orbis is a unique project and a practical response to this world wide problem of blindness. The project collects and disseminates surgical skills among medical personnel worldwide, whilst designing and implementing community eye care programmes in countries where it is appropriate, she added.

Project Orbis was launched in 1982 and since its inception it has circled the globe twice carrying out 52 missions in 38 countries.

Prince Ra'd, who also is president of the Jordan Eye-Bank Society, made a speech in which he called on Orbis to establish a centre in the United States to assess its operations. He said that this would give this excellent humanitarian project a sense of continuity and future vision. The project has been very useful in transferring ophthalmological technology and eye-surgery techniques and services, he said.

The opening ceremony was attended by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Becker and visiting

U.S. Senator Charles Mathias as well as ophthalmologists from the KHMC and the private sector.

Dr. Slade paid tribute to the standard of Jordan's medical community which, he said, was well-known and has had international expertise in open heart surgery and organ transplantation. Our main purpose remains to the exchange of skills, ophthalmological teachings and techniques," with the host country's doctors, Dr. Slade said.

Budget

An Orbis press release issued Sunday said that two-thirds of the projects' annual budget is provided by the United States Agency for International Development, while a large portion of its medical supplies, medical equipment and financial support is donated by corporations, foundations and individuals across the world.

The DC8 airliner was donated to Orbis by the U.S.-based United Airlines and its refurbishment to convert it into a flying hospital cost \$8 million, the craft's flight engineer Eric Friedrichson told the Jordan Times.

Orbis' 24-member crew and medical staff consists of six doctors, six nurses, technicians, pilots, public relations officers and coordinators, who are all American citizens except for the nurse anaesthetist and chief nurse who are Danish and Canadian respectively.

The project's nine international visiting faculty ophthalmologists come from the U.S., Canada, France and the United Kingdom, and Dr. Slade said that the host country usually selects the visiting faculty doctors, who are specialised in different areas of plastic surgery, glaucoma, cornea surgery, cornea and cataract techniques as well as retinal specialists and cornea grafting specialists.

The aircraft has been divided into eight compartments according to the various stages of eye-surgery procedures: The examination room, an 18-seat class room, an audio-visual control room, the scrubbing-up area, the main operating theatre, the sterilisation area, the instrument and supplies room, a recovery compartment — which is also used for receiving patients — and the toilets.

Video cameras link the theatre and the recovery room with the class room, where doctors, nurses and anaesthetists get the chance to

observe the eye-surgery operations.

Mr. Ozzie Font, who operates the video cameras, told the Jordan Times that his control room is equipped with video-film editing machine on which he carries out all the editing on various films of the operations and he later presents them to the host country which uses them for ophthalmological purposes.

Nurse Jane Hampton, from New York and who has participated in four Orbis missions, describes her profession as "wonderful" although she spends quite a lot of time away from home. Mrs. Hampton, who is married to an Orbis ophthalmologist, said that each nurse working in the project has to be very familiar with ophthalmology.

Ms. Winnie Osborn, the chief nurse who is from Canada, says that the project has provided her with the best "nursing experience" through interacting with international nurses and health care organisations.

Ms. Julie DiBiase, an American of Italian origin, continues that the staff on Orbis are here to teach and to be taught. "It is not the quantity of cases that interests us but the quality of cases and the experience which benefits both sides," she added.

On March 1, Orbis will celebrate its fourth anniversary and on April 8 it will leave to Alexandria, Egypt, on a similar three-week mission. After this, it will leave to Malta from where it will return to the U.S..

After a two-week rest in America, where each member of staff will have the time and chance to see their parents, Orbis will start a mission to central America, which will last for 18 months.

The Orbis visit to Jordan has been organised by the Royal Medical Services in cooperation with the JOS.

Types of surgery

Major eye operations which Orbis has performed on board of the airliner are: corneal grafts where the cornea of an eye donor is grafted into a new person's eye; cataract surgery in which doctors extract extra capsular cataracts with inter-ocular lens implants which is one of the most common eye surgeries although cataract patients are almost blind; plastics surgery which take place outside the eye such as in case of fallen-eye lids or where a tear duct is implanted. Glaucoma, which is the major cause of blindness, is also treated aboard Orbis.



His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and the Director of the Royal Medical Corps, Maj.-Gen. Da'oud Hanania, Sunday visit Project Orbis, the Flying Eye Hospital, which arrived in Amman Saturday (Petra photo)

Jordanians appeal for Syrian action to end war

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman Hadidi (former president of the Bar Association), Mr. Ibrahim Abu Ayash (president of the Jordanian Engineers Association), Mr. Jaafar Al Shami, Mr. Yasser Amer (PNC member), Salem Massadeh, Senator Abdullah Rahman Khalifeh, Mr. Bahjat Abu Gharbieh (PNC member), Suleiman Arar (former minister and National Consultative Council speaker), Dr. Hani Al Khasawneh, Mr. Salim Al Zoghbi, Dr. Jamal Al Shaer (former minister and NCC member), Dr. Said Al Taji (former minister), Dr. Ghaleb Al Sabarini (president of the Pharmaceutical Association), Mr. Ali

Abu Al Ragheb, Mrs. Leila Sharaf (former information minister and NCC member), Deputy Fawzi Toweimeh Daoud, Mr. Mahmoud Al Kayed (president of the Press Association), Mr. Rakan Al Majali (a prominent journalist), Mr. Fahd Al Rimawi (a columnist), Mr. Abdul Rahim Omar (a prominent poet), Mr. Tareq Al Masarweh (editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Shaab daily and a columnist), Mr. Abdul Salam Al Tarawneh, Dr. Mubammad Jweidan Al Jamal, Mr. Jawdat Al Soud, Mr. Hani Abu Hijleh, Dr. Fawzi Al Samhour, Mr. Abdul Majed Shreideh, Dr. Hamdi Khasawneh, Dr. Matar Awad, Mr. Khaled Mah-

adeen (journalist), Dr. Walid Maraga (president of the Dentists Association), Dr. Yahya Khreis, Deputy Mohammad Al Haj Abdullah, Dr. Kamel Ajlouni (former minister), parliament members Rizq Al Bataineh and Zohair Zouqan Hussein, Mrs. Haifa Al Bashir (president of the Federation of Jordanian Women), Mr. Abdullah Ababneh, Dr. Tarad Al Qadi, Dr. Adil Dalal, Mr. Awni Al Masri (former minister), Dr. Saleh Erseheidat, Dr. Hassan Khreis (president of Jordan's Medical Association), and Mr. Ghassan Kamahawi (president of the Agricultural Engineers Association).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nsour to discuss loans with Saudi fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour left for Riyadh Sunday at the invitation of Saudi Arabian Minister of Finance and National Economy Mohammad Al Khail. The minister said that his talks with the Saudi minister and with officials of Saudi Fund for Development will cover a number of projects in Jordan financed by the fund and will explore possibilities of the fund financing other projects included in the five-year plan. Dr. Nsour said Jordan hopes to obtain loans from the fund to help finance the construction of hospitals, wastewater treatment plants, irrigation projects and water networks. The minister is accompanied by a three-member delegation.

Hamzeh leaves for Prague

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh left for Prague Sunday on a week-long official visit to Czechoslovakia during which he will sign an agreement for health cooperation in public health and medical sciences fields between Jordan and Czechoslovakia. Dr. Hamzeh will also acquaint himself with health service regulations there.

Yarmouk to attend engineering talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Yarmouk University is to take part in an international engineering conference which will be held in London at the beginning of next month. The conference will be discussing engineering studies on the latest advances in engineering submitted by scholars and scientists from various countries of the world. Dr. Abdul Rahim Makki from the Faculty of Engineering will represent the university in the conference with a scientific paper on electrical engineering.

Ministry discourages begging at mosques

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs has called on the public not to encourage begging in front of mosques and places of worship as this is against the teachings of Islam. Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat issued a circular to the directors of Awqaf departments asking them to try and stop this practice by highlighting the negative reflection of begging on the image of Islam and Muslims during sermons.

More doctors in government hospitals

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Health Ministry last year appointed 205 general practitioners and 29 specialists at its various hospitals and medical centres in the country, raising the number of other doctors to 1,123, up from 889 in 1984, according to a ministry spokesman quoted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper. He said that the appointments will help reduce the number of unemployed doctors and raise the working capacity of the Ministry of Health. During 1985, the spokesman added, 362 interns were offered the chance to acquire training at the ministry's hospitals.

British unionists gather facts on Palestine issue

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation from the British Transport and General Workers' Union left Amman Sunday for the occupied West Bank on a four-day fact-finding mission. The five-man delegation is expected to gather information from Palestinian refugees and inhabitants of the Israeli-held territory to present a report to the union's general executive.

The delegation, which was invited to Jordan by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Sunday met with Palestine National Council Speaker Abdul Hamid Al Aisah who briefed them on the latest developments in the Palestine problem. The Pal-

estinian people, he said, cling hard to their national rights in their homeland under the leadership of the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Sheikh Sa'eb spoke of Israel's inhuman practices and other violations in the occupied Arab lands and desecration of holy Christian and Islamic places.

On Sunday afternoon the delegation visited Baqa'a refugee camp where they met with residents and inspected their living conditions.

Following their visit to the West Bank the delegation will return to Amman.

Jordan takes part in talks on world phosphate markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan has taken part in a meeting of world phosphate producing and exporting countries which was held recently in Casablanca to discuss ways of supporting and developing the industry and the marketing of phosphates. Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) Director General Wasef Azar, who represented Jordan at the meeting, said that the talks aimed to support resolutions of a seminar on the use of phosphate fertilisers held in India last month.

The meeting also aimed at forming committees from phosphate producing countries to conduct

studies and applied researches on the world's consumption of phosphate fertilisers. He also pointed out that research seminars on fertilisers will be held. He also said that research centres in various countries of the world will be contacted to conduct agricultural studies and to stress the positive results of the use of fertilisers.

During the three-day meeting, participants also discussed a number of topics related to contacts with financing institutions and international organisations to contribute to financing the necessary studies and researches, Mr. Azar concluded.

Rains replenished underground water reserves, Keilani says

AMMAN (J.T.) — The amount of water that fell in Jordan over the past two days is estimated to be 40 per cent of the total amounts that fell during the present rainy season so far, according to Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) Director Mohammad Saleh Al Keilani.

He said in an interview with Jordan Television that the rain will increase the underground water reserves and that rains in late February and March in pre-

vious years were enough to replenish underground water reserves, used for drinking purposes. He said that the amount of underground water is sufficient for the country at present.

Interviewed in the same programme, Dr. Salem Butros Salem, director of the Agricultural Information Department at the Ministry of Agriculture, said that the amounts of rain which fell in the past two days will encourage farmers to sow crops and plant trees.

War, party policy bring Afghan women out into public life

Like Afghan men, they have also been called on to complement the government's Soviet-backed army. Officials say about 6,000 women do guard duty like Shakila in the Kabul area alone.

They had no figures for armed women in the provinces where, as visiting Western journalists saw in Jalalabad, Afghan men's traditional supremacy seems less threatened.

One of the most obvious changes has been on the work front, where 270,000 women now hold down jobs compared with only 5,000 before the 1978 coup in this backward mountain country.

Afghanistan has an official population of 15 million but Western states claim 4.5 million people have fled Communist rule.

"We would have a labour shortage here if women did not work," said Rosia Khalil, a party activist responsible for the 313 women on Bagram's 1,064-strong staff.

Nazari Gul, a gruff middle-aged mechanic at the Jangalak metal works in Western Kabul, said he accepted the female invasion there. "We're expanding so we will need even more."

Two shy machine operators at Jangalak, Najiba, 31, and Aeenaba, 23, said they had both started only five months ago.

Najiba's husband was now in the army and Aeenaba's had gone to study in the Soviet Union.

The relative absence of young men, many of whom are in the army, the rebel ranks or in exile, has also flung open the doors for women at places like Kabul University.

More than half the 8,800 students there are women, a highly unusual situation for a Muslim country where many men think any education for females is a waste of time.

Jamila Naheed, executive committee member of the official Democratic Women's Organisation of Afghanistan (DWOA), agreed the war had pushed women into male jobs unusually quickly.

But the change could not have come about without a clear decision by the party to give women more rights, said Naheed, one of only six women among Kabul's 150 law graduates in 1973.

"Now women and girls can come out and take part in public life because they know the government supports them," she said.

One of the first social reforms the party decreed after seizing power was a ban on the widespread practice of buying wives, a custom that even allowed expecting parents to promise buyers unborn children if they turned out to be girls.

A minimum marriage age of 16 was set.

The DWOA, which is headed



Afghan women take part in a military parade in the streets of Kabul on 1979 (Gazeta/photo)

by Afghanistan's first woman doctor and the only female member of the party's politburo, Anahita Ratebzad, also runs weekly work groups for women students, workers, peasants and housewives to promote the new approach.

"We tell them they're half the population," Naheed said. "We tell them about famous women around the world, about women's struggles for their rights everywhere."

This must be heady stuff for the women in cities and rural areas who hear it. Before 1978, about 98 per cent of all Afghan women were illiterate and knew little about the world beyond their mud houses and meagre farmlands.

It appears a bit too fast for some men as well.

Ahdul Wahid Sarobi, a cabinet adviser on education in his 60s, assured journalists that the unusually high number of women students at Kabul University was "only a transitory phenomenon."

But Naheed, told he predicted a change once the war is over, reacted as any good feminist should. "It cannot go down," she shot back. "It must increase."

Randa Habib's

'Guess who is not coming to dinner'

PUNCTUALITY should not be a quality but a habit. A way of life. Unfortunately not so many people consider it as "a big deal" if they were late for an appointment or if they did not show up at all.

"I forgot" one would tell you, or "I was kept by something," or again "I couldn't make it." As simple as that. And you are supposed to accept their excuses. Some do not even bother to apologise. Nothing is more irritating than waiting for someone who doesn't show up, or to have to change your arrangements accordingly.

Unfortunately the lack of punctuality does not only occur at business or social appointments but also at dinner parties. Too many people, it seems, consider it to be courteous and good taste to arrive up to one and a half hours late at dinner parties. The result is disastrous for the hostess who becomes unable to serve the food at a fixed hour. Others do not come at all although they have confirmed, on that same day, that they will.

In case of seated dinners, when some guests do not show up on time, the host is compelled to call in order to check if there is any problem. Some will indifferently answer that they are still putting the children to bed, and that they will be coming soon; others will just say: "We can't make it, my wife is tired."

Vague excuses.

Unfortunately people too often act this way. Arrogance and impoliteness have no roots in our culture. So let us not adopt bad habits with regard to punctuality.

Robots travel the slow road

Technological development has opened the way to more flexible shop-floor automation, but the market for more ambitious integration systems has grown much more slowly than expected, says Ian Rodger.

LONDON — The factory automation industry has suddenly become a hive of technological development. Hardly a month goes by without a significant new product or concept appearing on the market.

A year ago, few had heard of APLs (automated fork lift trucks), MAP (manufacturing automation protocol) or CMMs (co-ordinate measuring machines). Today, these and many other acronyms are common currency in the lively, international race among engineers and producers to capture shares of the potentially huge factory automation markets of the future.

But demand for factory automation equipment is not growing as quickly as many suppliers expected. The world market for equipment and system is about \$50 billion, but forecasts of 25 per cent annual growth rates have been scaled down in the past two years because of sluggish sales in many sectors.

Some companies have been badly caught out by lack of growth. General Electric of the U.S. geared up in 1982 to handle a surge of big contracts, but found that few were forthcoming. It has scaled down operations after suffering losses of \$120 million in three years.

No one doubts that a boom in demand for automation equipment and systems will come and that computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) will become a reality. The factory is increasingly recognised as an important weapon in manufacturers' competitive strategy, and automation has a big role in maximising performance. But implementation is taking longer than some expected.

This is reminiscent of a similar period of disillusionment in office automation more than a decade ago. In the 1960s, the emergence of mini-computers and technology enabling computers to be linked through telecommunications lines made possible the development of on-line management information (MIS).

Many starry-eyed growth forecasts were made. But by the early 1970s, it was clear that MIS schemes were very difficult to design and develop. Even today they are not widely used in corporate offices.

Similarly, the factory automation field has been jolted by big technological developments which, in turn, has led to some overly rosy forecasts of demand. Until a few years ago, the potential applications of factory automation equipment were limited. The technology then available meant that automation equipment had to be tailor-made to produce only one type of product, and so could be justified only if that product was made in very large volume. Automation tended to be applied only in the automotive and domestic appliance industries, and process industries such as chemicals and paper.

The emergence of low-cost programmable logic controllers (PLC) and computer numerical controls (CNC) in the late 1970s opened the way to more flexible automation on the shop floor. Automation equipment can now be easily re-programmed, enabling it to make a variety of products. Manufacturers that produce many things in small volumes — and they are the vast majority — can now contemplate some forms of automation.

This has given a big boost to demand for the most straightforward types of automation equipment, such as computer-aided design systems (CAD), robots and CNC machine tools. But the market for the more ambitious systems that integrate these and other machines under computer

control has been much slower to develop. It is probably premature to talk of markets for advanced factory automation systems: at this stage, both the suppliers and the potential customers are feeling their way.

On the supply side, the push for CIM systems creates demands for other technologies to take over functions such as handling, assembling and inspection, that have required a lot of skilled labour up to now.

In the past year, probably the most exciting developments have been in vision systems. The potential is enormous, especially in inspection and assembly, where they enable machines to identify parts and to verify their shape with 100 per cent reliability. One estimate suggests that by 1992 more than 40 per cent of inspection systems in manufacturing will have vision capabilities.

A plethora of new vision systems has come on the market. There are hundreds of companies in the U.S. and Europe, many very small, offering solutions to problems of non-contact sensing, high-speed operation, dimensional accuracy and the ability to examine small or restricted areas. Frost & Sullivan estimates that the European market for vision systems is worth \$190 million and will be \$330 million in 1989.

Heavy materials handling is another sector in rapid change. Automated guided vehicles (AGVs) are increasingly common in factories, but most are tied to fixed guidance systems such as wire rails buried in the floor. Some suppliers are developing free-ranging AGVs that will follow routes provided from computers.

Meanwhile, a big effort is being made to simplify electronic communication between the increasing variety of machines involved in factory automation. At the centre of this effort is MAP, the manufacturing automation protocol developed by General Motors of the U.S.

GM, which is one of the biggest spenders on automation equipment, hoped that if it required all suppliers to make MAP-compatible equipment, MAP would become an industry standard.

Computer power sheds light on who's really who in the Kremlin

PARIS — Puzzling out the riddles of Kremlin politics has always been an uphill struggle, but the answer to the question "who's really who in Moscow?" is now easier to find — thanks to a French computer.

When the Soviet Communist Party picks a new central committee of several hundred members at the close of its five-yearly congress in early March, up to half the names may be new.

The list will be minutely scrutinised by foreign embassies, news organisations and research institutes for clues how far General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has consolidated his power.

But while most analysis will spend several days or even weeks

poring over yellowing card-indexes and copies of Pravda, French Kremlinologist Michel Tatu hopes to have the job finished in 24 hours.

Tatu, a former Moscow correspondent, foreign editor and more recently arms control specialist at Le Monde newspaper, has developed the first computer data base on the Soviet elite, appropriately named SOVT.

"We have 7,500 names now and expect to have 10,000 by the end of the year," Tatu says. "There are no limits."

The data base, updated daily by Tatu and three assistants who comb through 23 Soviet daily newspapers and a pile of periodicals, includes not only biographies dating as far back as 1917 but also a catalogue of events in Kremlin politics starting from

Gorbachev's appointment a year ago.

What makes it a powerful tool for Kremlinologists is the way the biographical facts are cross-referenced to allow instant answers to highly complex questions.

How many ambassadors have been moved since Gorbachev came to power? How many ministers lost their jobs in 1984? Which Soviet military leaders served in East Germany? Who worked with Gorbachev in the Stavropol region before he came to Moscow in 1978?

These are the kinds of questions which SOVT can answer, but it can't predict the future. "Sometimes people ask me if I can say who would take over if Gorbachev fell under a bus. Obviously I can't," Tatu says.

The idea of using a computer to

take some of the drudgery out of Kremlinology came to Tatu while he was writing his much-praised classic book "Le Pouvoir En URSS" ("Power in the Kremlin"), an analysis of the power struggles he witnessed as a correspondent in Moscow from 1957 to 1964.

It was a monstrous amount of work. Each piece of information had to be entered on dozens of different index cards. I said to myself that I needed a computer to come to my rescue," he says.

Tatu finally got the project under way in 1984, four years after returning to Paris after a spell as Le Monde's Washington correspondent.

A French government grant helped pay to develop the computer software, but Tatu emphasises that SOVT is a private commercial project with no political ties. "We are totally neutral. We are open to the KGB and to the CIA," he jokes.

Voodoo still dominates life in rural Haiti

NEW YORK — The Duvalier dynasty was not the only power that dominated Haiti. The voodoo spirits of the serpent and the rainbow also hold sway.

The late Haitian dictator Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier knew how to draw support from the traditional voodoo society but his son, Jean "Baby Doc" Duvalier, never managed to build on that power base, according to one expert on voodoo.

The expert is Harvard ethnobotanist Wade Davis, who says he has come face to face with zombies, Haiti's legendary living dead.

His book "The Serpent and the Rainbow" was published a few weeks before widespread protest led to the ouster last Friday of president-for-life "Baby Doc" Duvalier.

A study of culture more than politics, the book skirts the topic of Baby Doc's iron rule.

Davis said this week that Papa Doc, who came to power in 1957, sought to displace the Malatto elite and wood key figures in the traditional voodoo culture.

But Baby Doc lacked his own base and then alienated some of his father's circle by marrying into the Malatto elite.

"In some ways, that marriage was a symbolic rapprochement between the traditional society and the elite, and at the same time, it was also a betrayal," Davis said.

"The son was coasting on borrowed time."

Davis' previous quests had taken him to the Amazon, the Andes, and the wooded wilds of northern Canada.

But none of that had quite prepared him for the task he was given a few years ago: Investigate reports that doctors in Haiti had found two authentic zombies.

Davis prefers the spelling voodoo — the version preferred by anthropologists — in part to distinguish what he calls the "rich religion of the Haitian tradition,"

from the Hollywood images of ugly wax voodoo dolls stabbed with pins.

In an earlier interview, when his book was published, he described his extraordinary travels in Haiti over the last four years, his visits to the "hounfours" or voodoo temples where Haitians dance for, and are possessed by, the spirits.

His starting point, he said, was the life, and death, and life again of a man named Clairvius Narcisse.

In 1962, an American doctor at a Haitian clinic signed the death certificate of Narcisse. Some 18 years later, the dazed old black man was found wandering in the countryside.

Narcisse, recalled Davis, spoke of being raised from the grave, beaten, drugged and enslaved. The scar on his right cheek, he said, came from a nail driven through his coffin.

Davis' assignment to what he called "the frontier of death" was to obtain and analyse zombie poison. He did so within weeks, with case that surprised him.

Some of the ingredients were common — easily found in any human graveyard.

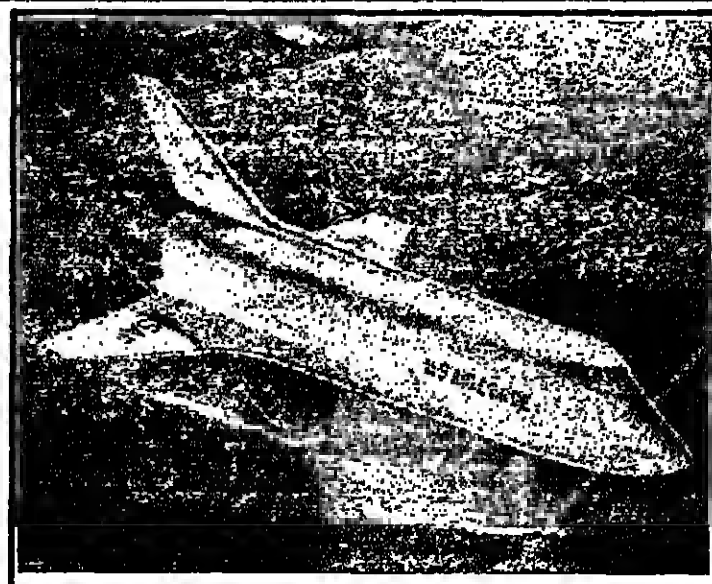
Others were toads and worms and tropical plants, but the key ingredient, subsequent laboratory analysis showed, came from the highly poisonous puffer fish or blowfish.

The blowfish is not an unknown poison. In fiction, a dab of blowfish poison on a tiny blade nearly did away with James Bond. On the other hand, the Japanese know how to prepare the fish safely and eat it as a delicacy.

"In Japan, a poison victim is a poison victim," he said. "In Haiti, a poison victim is a zombie. I wanted to know why."

Davis found the blowfish poison was often fatal, but in some cases only appeared lethal. It causes paralysis and slows the metabolism to the point where a victim seems clinically dead.

Narcisse, it seems, was poisoned. He fell ill and "died."

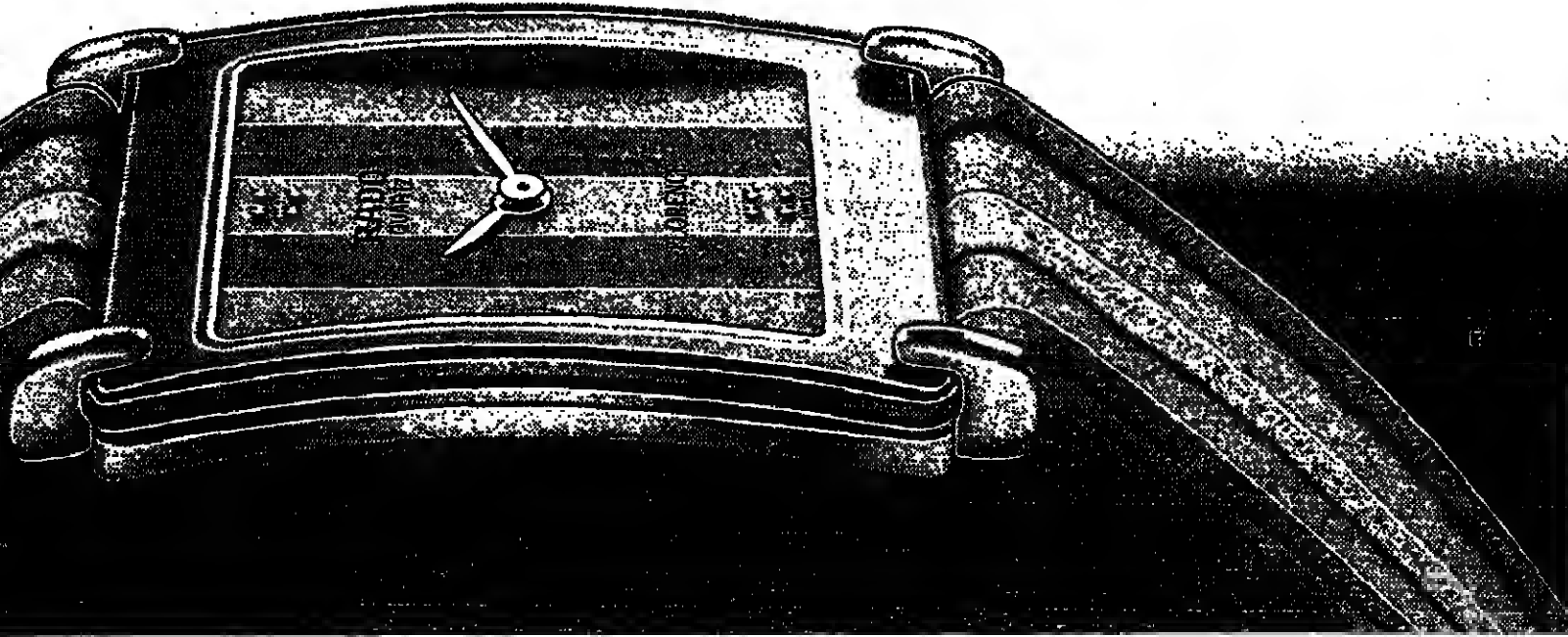


ORIENT EXPRESS: President Reagan announced in his State of the Union address recently that the U.S. will go ahead with research on a hypersonic Orient Express, similar to this artist's conception, that would make flights from Washington to Tokyo in two hours. The aircraft would fly in a low earth orbit. This design is under study by the U.S. firm Lockheed.

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Pruzzo scores 5 goals in Roma romp over Avellino

ROME (R) — Five goals by veteran centre forward Roberto Pruzzo enabled Roma to close on Juventus at the top of the Italian First Division Sunday.

Pruzzo scored all Roma's goals, including two penalties, in their 5-1 drubbing of Avellino and leapt to the top of the goal-scoring stakes with a personal tally of 12 this season.

With European Champions Juventus held to a 1-1 draw in a derby match against Torino, Roma are now just three points behind the leaders with nine matches still to play.

A 50,000-crowd at Rome's Olympic Stadium saw Pruzzo, in his ninth season with Roma, open the scoring in the 15th minute with a penalty awarded for a foul on Brazilian Toninho Cerezo.

Argentine centre-forward

Ramon Diaz equalised for the visitors 13 minutes later after a fine solo run.

But the second half saw Roma take complete control. Winger Bruno Conti and Polish midfielder Zbigniew Boniek set up goals for Pruzzo in the 57th and 69th minutes, and the 30-year-old striker scored twice in as many minutes just before full-time.

Juventus, playing their 190th derby against fifth-placed Torino, seemed set for a win after a 25th-minute goal by Dane Michael Laudrup, who scored from a Michel Platini pass.

But with three minutes to go, and Juventus down to 10 men

after midfielder Massimo Bonini had been sent off, Torino captain Renato Zaccarelli equalised after collecting the ball when it was punched clear by goalkeeper Stefano Tacconi.

Napoli held on to third place despite a 0-0 draw against Fiorentina which saw both teams floundering on a muddy pitch.

Argentine striker Diego Maradona came close to scoring for Napoli several times in the first half, one shot hitting the crossbar, another going just wide and a third curving into the grateful arms of goalkeeper Giovanni Galli.

Italian international Sandro Altobelli shook off a bout of influenza to score Internazionale's goal in their 1-0 win over Bari, while Milan, missing England striker Mark Hateley, had to work hard for a 1-1 draw with Como.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kuwaiti absence won't affect Gulf tourney

BAHRAIN (R) — This year's Gulf Soccer Tournament will be held in Bahrain as scheduled despite the absence of Kuwait, barred from participation by a FIFA ruling, organisers said Sunday. The competition will be played from March 22 to April 7. FIFA (International Federation of Football Associations) suspended Kuwait last month amidst confusion over its administration of the game and alleged misuse of funds. Kuwait was ordered to elect a new soccer board.

Kankunen takes rally championship lead

KARLSTAD, Sweden (R) — Finland's Juha Kankunen took full advantage of the withdrawal of most of the favourites to win the Swedish Motor Rally in a time of five hours nine minutes 19 seconds Sunday. Kankunen's victory in the second event of the world championship took him to the top of the standings with 28 points, eight ahead of compatriot Henri Toivonen, winner of last month's Monte Carlo Rally. Kankunen, driving a Peugeot 205, covered the 30-section 50-km course one minute 54 seconds faster than second-placed compatriot Markku Alen. Reigning world champion Timo Salonen of Finland retired early during the three-day race with engine problems.

Sigi Held named as Iceland coach

DORTMUND, West Germany (R) — Former West German World Cup player Sigi Held has been appointed manager of Iceland's national soccer team. Held, who played in the West German team beaten 4-2 by England in the 1966 World Cup Final at Wembley, said Sunday he would take up his new post in May. The 43-year-old former trainer of First Division club Schalke said his priority would be the qualifying tournament for the 1988 European Championship. But on Friday, Iceland were drawn in the toughest group with France, the Soviet Union, East Germany and Norway and Held said he did not believe his side could realistically expect to finish in the top two.

PSG gains narrow victory

PARIS (R) — First Division leaders Paris Saint-Germain conceded an early goal and had to fight all the way to gain a narrow 2-1 first-leg lead in their French Cup second round tie against Second Division Montpellier here Saturday night.

Frank Passi, who had already drawn a fine save from French international goalkeeper Joel Bats in the sixth minute, shot the visitors ahead in the 10th from a superb pass by Andreas Torosik.

PSG badly missed World Cup striker Dominique Rocheteau, an influenza victim, but midfielder Fabrice Piquionne forced an equaliser five minutes before the interval.

Omar Sene, Rocheteau's replacement, made it 2-1 from a Poulain corner eight minutes from the end to give PSG a slight edge for the second leg in Montpellier. Le Havre, first round conquerors of holders Monaco, gained a similarly meagre 2-1 first leg advantage at home to fellow First Division Rennes, having received a dream start with goals in the seventh and eighth minutes by Moroccan striker Merry Kriman. Guy Lacombe replied for Rennes in the 38th minute.

'Just a show, not a track meet'

By Larry Fine
Reuter

NEW YORK — It promised to be a record chase with the world's greatest pole vaulters competing instead, it was almost an international incident.

Americans Billy Olson and Joe Dial and Soviet star Sergei Bubka, who between them have raised the indoor pole vault record seven times this season, were brought together Friday night amid hopes for yet another record.

But protests, counter-protests and extra vaults turned the event into a circus. The competition dragged on for more than six hours, neither Dial nor Bubka made a single successful vault, the second-place finisher emerged with the meeting record, and Olson won by clearing 5.80 metres. No, make that 5.79 metres.

The Millrose Athletics meeting, in its 79th year, had never seen anything like it.

"You've got to look at it as almost a tainted competition," said Olson, who just last Saturday set his fourth record of the winter just hours after Bubka had eclipsed his previous mark. "Dial didn't have his poles. Everybody got four jumps. It was just kind of a silly meet."

Soviet coach Eduard Gustichin took it more seriously.

"Every thing was all right until the American athletes were given an extra chance. It was a brutal violation of international rules," Gustichin told Reuters through an interpreter.

A carnival atmosphere surrounded the competition at Madison Square Garden. Photographers, officials and curiosity seekers crowded along the runway and round the landing pit.

All three star vaulters protested against interference on the runway.

"Olson and Dial got extra jumps because the chief pole vault judge ruled they had been interfered with on their way down the runway. Olson by a photographer and Dial by an official," meeting director Howard Schmertz said.

"Bubka's was a natural complaint. He claimed he was interfered with because he had to wait at the end of the runway for five minutes and couldn't get his pole out."

Bubka, who had threatened to quit the competition, was also given an extra jump.

"Then he (Bubka) complained his brother Vasily was interfered with but we said that was enough. It practically ruined the meet. We were out there 45 minutes talking," Schmertz said.

Dial had special problems. The Oklahoma's pole disappeared in transit so he had to borrow one.

Bubka was clearly irritated after the event but did not blame Olson or Dial.

"The main reason is the American way of life," the 22-year-old Soviet athlete said. "They try to make the most money possible and the conditions are bad for the athletes. Victories are not real here because they are to make money for the Americans and they are not honourable."

Olson, 27, was sympathetic: "You can look at the Russian side of it and say you shouldn't get another jump no matter what. I feel sorry for Sergei. He was upset. It's a little embarrassing for me to have him come up and say these American meets are just a show, not a track meet."

The circus atmosphere and controversy distracted everyone, he said, adding: "It's a sad thing that kind of thing has to go on during a coming together of all these great vaulters."

Olson won the event, but runner-up Dave Volz of the U.S. was credited with a meeting record.

Olson cleared 5.80 metres (19 feet 1/4 inch) for a new meeting record. But he grazed the bar as he went over, and a re-measurement, required for records, showed the bar at 5.79 metres (19 feet).

For the event, he was credited with 5.80 metres.

For purposes of the record, he received the lower height.

Volz cleared 5.80 metres, which was confirmed by re-measurement, but lost the event to Olson because of more misses overall. But he was credited with the meeting record.

Olson tried three times to break his current world indoor record of 5.93 metres (19 feet 5 1/2 inches) but never came close.

The Soviet coach, whose five-member team compete in three other meetings in the United States before returning here for the Mobil /Grand Prix finals on February 28, said that if the Millrose is an example of things to come, he's worried.

"I'm very concerned about the way the remaining meets will be conducted," Gustichin said.

Gilbert upset by France's Tulasne

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Thierry Tulasne of France upset American Brad Gilbert Saturday to advance to the fourth round of the \$1.8 million International Players Tennis Championships along with highly seeded Swedes Mats Wilander and Stefan Edberg.

Tulasne, ranked 23rd in the world and seeded 19th, beat 13th-seeded Gilbert 7-5, 6-2 while second-seeded Wilander beat American Mike Leach, the 31st seed, 6-1, 6-2, and fifth-seeded Edberg beat Damir Keretic of West Germany 6-1, 6-1.

Tulasne's victory over Gilbert was one of the big surprises of the tournament. The American has been one of the most successful players this year. He defeated John McEnroe at the Masters. Jimmy Connors and Edberg in winning the U.S. Indoor title and extended Ivan Lendl, the world's top player, in the Pro Indoor Championships.

But against Tulasne, he was unable to get his serve and volley game working.

"I got tired. Tulasne took a lot of wind out of me with his lobs,"

Gilbert said. "I should have been more patient and waited longer at the baseline."

"I won because I hit nice lobs at the right moment," Tulasne said. "People also told me if I hit right to his forehand it would bother him."

Earlier, top-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd and third-seeded Jimmy Connors overcame slow starts to win third-round matches.

Lloyd, down 3-5 in the first set, beat Catherine Suire of France 7-5, 6-1 while Connors, bouncing back from a first-set loss, eliminated fellow American Mark Dickson 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

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Cinema OPERA

Tel: 675573

THE GIRLS AND THE UNKNOWN (Colour)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00

S. Arabia holds key to oil market stability

LONDON (R) — Oil prices are set to dive further within weeks unless Saudi Arabia backs off from flooding world markets, but Riyadh will be content to watch its fellow producers grapple with plunging oil income for some time yet, industry analysts said last week.

Analyst Mehdi Vazri of stockbrokers Grifoneau, Grant forecast a further sharp drop in the next two to three weeks unless producers in and outside OPEC (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries) could agree on halting the flood of unwanted oil on to world markets.

Hopes that feverish diplomatic activity led by OPEC founding member, Venezuela, and non-OPEC Mexico could persuade other producers outside the cartel to make concessions on production suffered a heavy, if predictable, setback recently.

British Energy Secretary Peter Walker, said after meeting his Mexican counterpart Francisco Lafontina Ochoa in London that his government would stick to its long-standing policy of allowing individual producing companies decide how much oil should be pumped from Britain's North Sea sector.

Analysts say this effectively ensures almost flat-out production, currently about 2.5 million barrels per day (b/d), a policy that has incurred OPEC's wrath. Kuwaiti Oil Minister Ali Al Khadifa Al Sabah, a close ally of Riyadh, has said recently prices could fall to \$10 if Britain did not cooperate and called on it to make cuts of more than 300,000 b/d.

Mr. Walker's remarks were the main cause of the spot market's fall. Higher demand because of unusually cold weather in much of Europe and North America, which had also bolstered prices, was unlikely to last more than a few weeks, traders said.

Venezuela and Mexico's diplomatic mission, which also included talks with Egypt and the other major North Sea producer, Norway, is unlikely to yield any concrete results, the analysts say.

Saudi Arabia triggered the plunge which almost halved world prices in less than three months by more than doubling its output since last September, and it is the only nation that can halt the slide. Riyadh could rescue the market by cutting its output from almost 4.5 million b/d now. But the analysts say it is highly unlikely to do this before the next OPEC ministerial meeting, tentatively scheduled for mid-March.

"I don't think (Riyadh) would throw away their ace before the meeting," said Mr. Peter Nichol of Scott Giff Layton, a London-based stockbroking firm.

"We make the view that they (the Saudis) will pull back from the brink but they're going to let it stew a bit longer," said Mr. Philip Lambert of stockbrokers Sheppard and Chase.

Saudi Arabia is one of the few oil exporters that can afford to do this. While countries such as Venezuela and Mexico face possible economic ruin, the growth of Riyadh's sales has balanced out the revenue lost on each barrel. Riyadh's policy appeared to be

aimed at making other producers suffer for another month, giving Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani immense leverage on fellow OPEC members to agree, and more importantly stick to, new production quotas at the next meeting, most of the analysts said.

OPEC already has quotas for each of its 13 members but these have been subject to widespread cheating. Sheikh Yamani's frequent warnings that he could start a price war to restore discipline failed to halt it, so last September he did just that.

Having taught fellow OPEC members a painful lesson, Riyadh hoped its calls would be heeded this time in return for cutting its own output, perhaps by one million b/d.

NEWS ANALYSIS

Already Iran and Libya have cut their exports and Mr. Vazri estimated this had lowered overall OPEC production to 17 million b/d from 18 million in December.

But Iraq's air raids on Iran's Kharg Island export terminal and a U.S. boycott excluding Libyan oil from American-owned refineries in Europe meant sales would have fallen anyway.

OPEC's output will have to fall at least another one million b/d by March to keep pace with falling demand as the northern winter draws to a close.

But one broker disagreed that Sheikh Yamani could impose discipline any more successfully now than before.

"If Saudi Arabia really believes after two months of stomach ache OPEC will behave like angels, they must be out of their minds," he told Reuters.

"It's got to reach a stage of real pain and it just hasn't gone on long

enough," he added, requesting anonymity.

He saw no chance of OPEC discipline unless prices were well over \$20 a barrel, ensuring reasonable income. This was clearly out of the question during the present glut.

"If there were a solution round the corner, why has it taken so long to find one?" he asked.

Falling oil prices to push up U.S. growth rate

Meanwhile, the sudden sharp fall in world oil prices is prompting top economists to raise their growth estimates for the U.S. economy, adding new lustre to official predictions formerly considered optimistic.

"It's a reversal of the effect of the 1970s and therefore it's bound to be helpful," said Mr. Greg Ballentine, an economist with the accounting firm Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co, noting that lower oil prices also helped to offset the effect of a declining dollar.

Besides the stimulative impact of cheaper oil on growth and its curbing effect on inflation, the "positive oil shock" is likely to ease pressure on credit markets which should prevent interest rates rising sharply, economists say.

"It should be very possible for the Fed (Federal Reserve Board) not to need to introduce restrictive policies" to restrain inflation through higher interest rates or a tightened money supply, Mr. Ballentine, formerly chief economist at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, told Reuters.

There is still a considerable range of economists' forecasts for 1986 economic growth. Mr. Ballentine said the Reagan administration's official estimate of four per cent real growth in Gross

National Product (GNP) now seems "not bad," but a little higher than he is yet willing to predict.

The chief economist for the Mortgage Bankers' Association, Mr. Lyle Gramley, also said that as a result of falling oil prices he had revised his 1986 GNP growth estimates upward by between quarter and half a percentage point to about 3.5 per cent.

"The evidence of recent months suggests we're heading into 1986 with a good deal of momentum," Mr. Gramley said, adding the Saudi-engineered drop in oil prices should add enough impetus to keep the economy growing strongly throughout the year.

Mr. Gramley, a former governor of the board of the Fed, the U.S. central bank, said the inflation rate should be no more than 3.5 to four per cent in 1986. The administration predicts 3.8 per cent inflation this year.

Mr. Walter Heller, a university economics teacher who was a senior economic adviser to the president in the 1960s, estimated that each \$5 decline in oil prices added about half a percentage point to annual GNP growth and lowered the inflation rate by three-quarters of a percentage point.

"I'm going along with the administration on its estimate of four per cent GNP growth from fourth quarter (1985) to fourth quarter (1986)," Mr. Heller said, adding that inflation should be no more than 3.5 to four per cent for the full year.

The Washington-based forecasting firm Rodman and Renshaw Economics Inc. in its latest economic review, referred to falling oil prices as part of events that included new estimates suggesting the federal deficit might not be as large as originally thought.

Arab experts emphasise importance of solar energy

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Gulf energy officials and experts on Saturday urged the Arab countries to turn to solar energy as a partial substitute for crude oil and natural gas.

"Oil is a depletable source of energy ... and in most of the Arab countries where dependence on oil is high the idea of finding energy alternatives has been raised," Mr. Ali Ahmad Atiq, secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPPEC) told a pan-Arab energy conference, opening here.

Bahrain's minister of works, power and water, Sheikh Majid Al Jisheer, told the second Arab international solar energy conference that "although we know that oil and gas are running out we still depend totally on them as energy sources."

His statement coincided with the publication of the economic bulletin of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) general secretariat which reported that, by the end of 1984, GCC countries together accounted for 42.7 per cent of the world's proven reserves of crude oil.

GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Mr. Atiq cautioned that alt-

though a number of countries boast oil reserves that can last more than half a century, the "fact remains that other countries' reliance on that oil will inevitably be much higher."

Sheikh Al Jisheer contended that joint Arab efforts to develop solar energy would "help prolong the lifespan of our oil reserves," citing as example the fact that Gulf Arab countries devote about 45 per cent of their electricity consumption to air-conditioning.

Bahrain minister of industry and development, Sheikh Youssef Shirawi, was meanwhile quoted as telling the weekly newspaper Al Adhwa that "we might step into the age of solar and nuclear energy, in much the way we had moved from the age of coal to that of oil."

Sheikh Al Jisheer said that solar energy is the best alternative to oil as an energy source. He cited year-round warm sunshine in the region, stressing that solar energy is easy to harness, entails no environmental pollution problems, and "carries neither political nor

social problems whatever."

The amount of solar energy available over a year in the Arab World, is equal to six times the quantities of proven reserves of crude oil in the whole world, according to a study by the Islamic Foundation for Science, Technology and Development.

Jordan ranks second after Tunisia

Most Arab countries have not yet harnessed solar energy, with Tunisia being the first to have a solar energy plant. Jordan comes second with its West German-designed plant in Aqaba.

There are also small solar-fuelled desalination units in Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. The annual budget for solar energy research and development in the Arab World in 1984 was close to \$35 million, according to the same study, with Saudi Arabia accounting for about 60 per cent of the total.

Morocco, Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria and Tunisia account of the rest of budget.

"One day of properly harnessed sunshine would be sufficient to meet the whole world's needs of energy for a year," added Mr. Atiq.

Reagan decries welfare system

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — President Ronald Reagan Saturday decried the U.S. welfare system as one that destroys families, promotes poverty and saps human potential, producing a "permanent scar" on the nation.

The president, in his radio address delivered from his ranch before returning to Washington, renewed his call for an overhaul of the nation's welfare system.

Mr. Reagan cited a "crisis of family breakdowns, especially among the welfare poor."

"Even the memory of families is in danger of becoming extinct," Mr. Reagan said.

Noting the doubling of illegitimate births since 1960, Mr. Reagan charged that the welfare system was at fault since young mothers could receive aid, medical care and food stamps if they did not marry or identify the father.

"Government programmes have ruptured the bonds that held families together," Mr. Reagan charged.

A system that provides money when the fathers do not acknowledge their children and gives mothers more money if they do not work must be changed, the president said.

"Obviously something is desperately wrong with our welfare system," Mr. Reagan charged. "But the waste of money pales before the sinful waste of human potential."

"The family is the most basic support system there is," Mr. Reagan said. The nation has been built on families pulling together and lifting themselves out of poverty by their own labour, the president said.

"For the children of child mothers and absentee fathers, there is often only a deepening cycle of futility, hopelessness, and despair," Mr. Reagan said.

He said the crisis was growing, one that "threatens to become a permanent scar on the American promise of hope and opportunity for all."

Mr. Reagan noted that he has directed his administration to study the welfare system "with a keen eye to making reforms."

Although Mr. Reagan did not

go into detail about his proposed cuts to the welfare system, he said his domestic policy council is due to report back to him by Dec. 1.

In his 1987 budget, which must be approved by Congress, Mr. Reagan moved to require employable adult welfare recipients to look for jobs.

The proposal would require all employable applicants and recipients of the nation's largest welfare programme, aid to families with dependent children, to look for work as a condition of eligibility.

At the same time, the president's proposed budget for the Labour Department would eliminate the 19-year-old work incentive, or win, programme, aimed at helping welfare recipients find jobs.

The \$212 million win programme would be cut \$46 million immediately with the idea of ending it completely in early 1987.

The president asked for a similar work-requirement provision for welfare recipients in this last budget, but legislators did not go along.

Canada plays crucial role in Turkey's energy programmes

ANKARA (R) — Talks on Canadian financing for Turkey's first nuclear power station are seen here as crucial to the project and to Ankara's policy that contractors should initially own and operate plants built for the government.

The state-owned Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. (AECL) last August signed a protocol for the \$1 billion, 635 megawatt plant at Akkuyu on the south coast.

It included acceptance of a model pioneered by conservative Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's government under which the builder initially operates the plant.

This postpones the capital costs of infrastructure projects and avoids imposing a heavier foreign debt burden on Turkey, already saddled with debt service obligations of nearly \$3 billion a year for the next three years.

Now the government wants to use the same model for three big new coal-fired power stations.

The Akkuyu project was launched by the then ruling military in 1983 as a way to meet Turkey's electricity needs, forecast to grow by 11.2 per cent this year over 9.2 per cent in 1985.

Official figures show 5.9 per cent of Turkey's electricity is due to come from the Soviet Union and Bulgaria this year, a dependence the authorities want to end.

Other projects include lignite-fired and hydroelectric power plants. Turkey has also agreed to import Soviet natural gas for 25 years from 1987 and is discussing a scheme to pipe Qatari gas to Europe via Turkey, also taking some itself.

Under AECL's accord it and a European sub-consortium led by British turbine-maker NEI-Parsons would take a majority stake in a firm to own and run the plant. Turkey's electricity board Tek would have a minority share and take over the plant after 15 years.

The government has refused a state guarantee, so the price Tek will pay for the electricity, which will provide AECL with the income to pay off debts incurred in building the plant, is crucial to the viability of the project.

"The litmus test for this concept is the Akkuyu deal, certainly in the energy sector," a Western diplomat commented.

Canada's acceptance of the principle has encouraged Turkish officials to suggest the same model for other infrastructure projects, notably highway schemes.

Inherent risks in the model led West Germany's Kraftwerk Union A.G. (KWU) to withdraw its bid for the Akkuyu project last year, but diplomats said Canada might back it for political reasons because of the boost to its nuclear industry.

The letter of intent allowed AECL to seek Canadian government approval for the scheme and an export credit guarantee, as well as finance from international bank. It needs around \$750 million and its European partners another \$250 million, officials said.

The Turkish government also signed a protocol in January with the U.S. Bechtel Corporation for a coal-fired, 1,000 megawatt power station costing some \$800 to \$900 million.

Details of the accord were not revealed but, the government plans to use the "build-operate-turn over" principle for this and two similar-sized plants running on imported coal.

Murdoch print row worsens

LONDON (R) — Riot police arrested more than 60 people in the worst night of picket-line violence in the dispute between Britain's print unions and international publisher, Mr. Rupert Murdoch, over the use of new technology.

Wearing riot gear for the first time in the dispute, police went into action Saturday night when an estimated 5,000 printworkers and their supporters tried to block distribution of newspapers from Mr. Murdoch's new computerised plant at Wapping in East London.

"Protesters hurled bricks, darts and bottles and tried to set fire to police barricades protecting trucks leaving the plant with copies of the Sunday Times and News Of The World. Police on horses drove them back.

Eight police were hurt in clashes reminiscent of the year-long miners' strike that ended last March when thousands were arrested in picket-line violence.

"It has been the most violent demonstration," Deputy Assistant Police Commissioner Wyn Jones told reporters, blaming it on troublemakers not connected with the dispute.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEB. 17, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A dramatic and fascinating day for you if you are alert to opportunities, especially those of an unexpected nature. Everyone is ingenious and inventive today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Early get into the business world and express your ideas very clearly so that you'll have fine results.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Concentrate on finances and you can make your money grow very fast now. An expert can give you fine ideas for getting ahead.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have excellent ideas, but do not know which to utilize first so write them down and then select the best.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) While quietly gathering the data you need, get that plan for greater prosperity worked out in your mind.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be highly sociable and see as many worthwhile persons who can be of help to you in the future.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Handle career work wisely and success will come to you, so don't waste precious time. Be alert to people who can help you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get out of that bad situation you are in, and get into new and exciting activities that can make you more successful.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Your intuition is accurate now and can be helpful in any work you are doing in order to make your dreams of success a reality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be sure to listen to what others are saying and gain good ideas, even though they may seem to be too emotional.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have new angles through which you can gain more efficiency and success, so do just that. Be more cooperative.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) A good day to plan for recreations with friends now and for the near future. Be more inventive today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Right action on your part can now establish greater harmony at home. Invite guests into your home tonight.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she is apt to get into all kinds of situations just to test the ability to solve problems wisely, but teach to use the energy in right directions and use capabilities cleverly since the mentality is very fine here. Teach to complete one project before tackling another.

THE Daily Crossword by Virginia L. Yates

ACROSS

1. Computer
2. Wood-shaping tool
3. Task
4. 40 egg (slang)
5. Ending for food
6. Dishwasher's Hank
7. Foot part
8. "Mistake"
9. Punishment
10. Avoid
11. Man of (slang)
12. Oblivious
13. Obliging to develop
14. Literary collection
15. Yeasted
16. Era
17. River of Asia
18. King
19. Princess of myth
20. Plunder
21. Dead spots
22. Oiling
23. Kind of car
24. Scribe
25. Mission together
26. Speed
27. One day
28. 27th King
29. 13th-century
30. Follow
31. Dismal
32. 100-year-old
33. Candle
34. Knowledge
35. Expanded down
36. Back talk

DOWN

1. Good time
2. School type
3. Heart's desire
4. Unpleasant
5. Precious
6. Mashed
7. Novelty
8. Miss Kelt
9. Kick up one's heels
10. Ice port
11. Globe
12. Fish eggs
13. Half of one
14. Musical work
15. Suburban
16. Opposite
17. 28th island
18. Harder
19. Place social
20. Reconnoitered
21. Saw
22. Shared first
23. On — also
24. — up (slang)
25. One of the fold
26. Cry of distress
27. Back
28. Baseball's
29. Rough
30. Direction
31. Restrained
32. Bender often
33. Whole
34. Point to be decided
35. Flightless
36. — kick out of you
37. Neck parts
38. Cuts, park
39. Street
40. Aware of
41. Wager
42. Stop — also
43. Viper

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

ACROSS

1. COMPUTER
2. CARPENTER
3. TASK
4. 40 EGG
5. FOOT PART
6. DISHWASHER'S HANK
7. FOOT PART
8. "MISTAKE"
9. PUNISHMENT
10. AVOID
11. MAN OF (SLANG)
12. OBLIVIOUS
13. OBLIGING TO DEVELOP
14. LITERARY COLLECTION
15. YEASTED
16. ERA
17. RIVER OF ASIA
18. KING
19. PRINCESS OF MYTH
20. PLUNDER
21. DEAD SPOTS
22. OILING
23. KIND OF CAR
24. SCRIBE
25. MISSION TOGETHER
26. SPEED
27. ONE DAY
28. 27TH KING
29. 13TH-CENTURY
30. FOLLOW
31. DISMAL
32. 100-YEAR-OLD
33. CANDLE
34. KNOWLEDGE
35. EXPANDED DOWN
36. BACK TALK

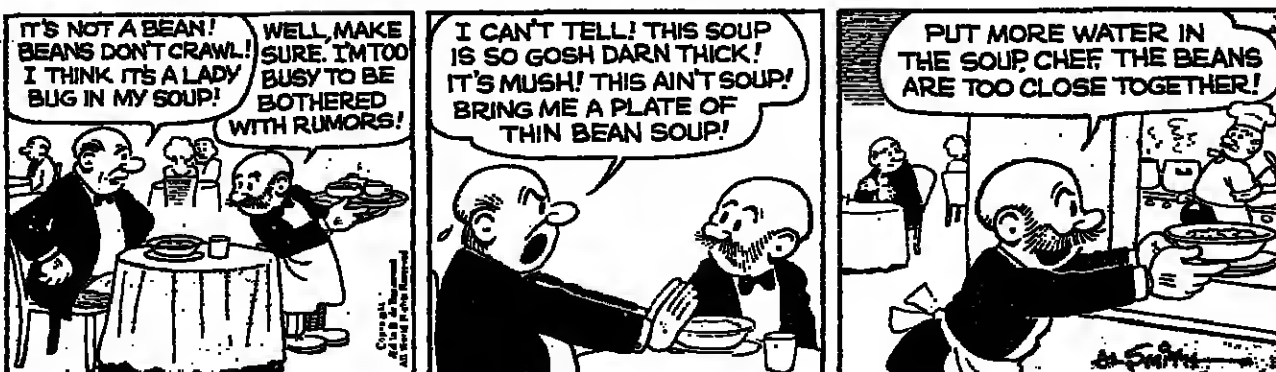
DOWN

1. GOOD TIME
2. SCHOOL TYPE
3. HEART'S DESIRE
4. UNPLEASANT
5. PRECIOUS
6. MASHED
7. NOVELTY
8. MISS KELT
9. KICK UP ONE'S HEELS
10. ICE PORT
11. GLOBE
12. FISH EGGS
13. HALF OF ONE
14. MUSICAL WORK
15. SUBURBAN
16. OPPOSITE
17. 28TH ISLAND
18. HARDER
19. PLACE SOCIAL
20. RECONNOITERED
21. SAW
22. SHARED FIRST
23. ON — ALSO
24. — UP (SLANG)
25. ONE OF THE FOLD
26. CRY OF DISTRESS
27. BACK
28. BASEBALL'S
29. ROUGH
30. DIRECTION
31. RESTRAINED
32. BENDER OFTEN
33. WHOLE
34. POINT TO BE DECIDED
35. FLIGHTLESS
36. — KICK OUT OF YOU
37. NECK PARTS
38. CUTS, PARK
39. STREET
40. AWARE OF
41. WAGER
42. STOP — ALSO
43. VIPER

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

YEDIT

DAULT

FISITE

LEBALT

And to make a long story short... With help come to the point

WHAT "TALES" TOLD BY A LONG-WINDED SORE USUALLY HAVE TOO MANY OF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: "OO - OOOO"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: AGILE GNARL MARTIN BRONCO

Answer: How the so-called "booming" generation spends much of its time — "GOING"

Moderate Sikhs challenge militants in Punjab rally

ANANDPUR SAHIB, India (R) — A rally of moderate Sikhs Sunday accused militants of leading India's Punjab state towards civil war and called for their removal from Sikhdom's holiest shrine, the Golden Temple at Amritsar.

About 60,000 Sikhs, far fewer than expected, crammed into a muddy field next to a 322-year-old shrine in this Punjab village to condemn the occupation of the temple complex by student-led militants on Jan. 26.

The occupation has threatened political stability in the Sikh-majority state.

At the same time at a rival meeting 150 kilometres away in Amritsar the militants vowed to defend the Golden Temple.

Reuter correspondent Ramesh Pande said 60,000 Sikhs packed the Golden Temple and took a pledge "to defend our religion and the sanctity of this great and sacred place the Akal Takht."

Militant leaders then laid the foundation stone of a new Akal Takht (eternal throne), the seat of Sikhs spiritual and temporal power.

The 18th century building was damaged when the Indian army stormed the temple in June 1984 to flush out extremists seeking a separate state in Punjab.

The government helped repair

it but militants considered the work unholy and began demolishing the building last month.

More than 10,000 police and paramilitary troops ringed the field and hilltop temple at Anandpur Sahib where the moderate Sikhs carrying saffron flags, swords and rifles had assembled for a Sarbat Khalsa (congregation of the pure). These rarely-held gatherings vote edicts to be followed by all members of the religion.

The moderates, who included religious leaders and members of Punjab's ruling Akali Dal Party, passed a resolution calling for the eviction of the militants who had "violated the sanctity of the Golden Temple."

"They are bent upon dividing the Sikhs. Naked swords and firearms are threatening people who come to pray, spreading hatred and fear and terror," the resolution said.

It condemned extremist attacks on young Sikhs and Akali Dal leaders and accused the hardliners of

leading the state towards civil war.

The state department vowed Saturday to end the occupation and to crack down on extremists who have killed more than 100 people since the Akali Dal came to power in September.

The militants held their own meeting inside the Golden Temple on Jan. 26. They voted to expel five head priests and reject the peace pact signed last July between Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala.

Mr. Barnala Saturday night accused the militants, who want a separate Sikh nation in Punjab, of declaring war on the state and said his government was ready to take "very harsh steps" to deal with them.

In his strongest denunciation of extremism since coming to power Mr. Barnala said his reluctance to act so far had been an effort to avoid suffering, not a sign of weakness.

"If they (the militants) continue to play into the hands of our enemies, my government will be constrained to take some very harsh steps to deal with the situation," he said in a radio broadcast.

"These elements have declared a war against the state," Mr. Barnala had said earlier that the militants had smuggled arms into the

Golden Temple.

But gave no indication of what action he contemplated. In June 1984, the army stormed the temple complex to oust armed Sikh extremists. At least 1,000 people were killed.

Moderate leaders first summoned the Sarbat Khalsa at the Golden Temple but switched to Anandpur Sahib to avoid bloodshed.

The village is historic for India's 14 million Sikhs whose 10th guru or teacher Gobind Singh founded the Sikh warrior tradition here in 1699. The place also gave its name to an Akali Dal campaign in 1973 for greater Sikh control of Punjab affairs.

The moderate-militant showdown has heightened tension in the Sikh-majority state where police have tightened security in the wake of stepped up extremist attacks.

Paramilitary forces have ringed the Golden Temple and set up road blocks around Amritsar to prevent an influx of militants. All processions and meetings of more than five people in the holy city have been banned until April 14.

Police have also arrested a number of militants including the widow of Beant Singh, one of Indira Gandhi's Sikh assassins.



Prince Charles

Charles to tour high-tech sites in Texas

DALLAS (R) — Britain's Prince Charles visits Texas this week but his interest will be in high-technology rather than oil or cattle or the soap opera that has made Dallas a household name around the world.

Coming as guest of honour at the state's 150th birthday party, the heir to the throne will spend five days learning about the fledgling computer businesses and high-tech research which Texas hopes will support its economy in the next decade.

Planners of his trip said the emphasis on computer chips came at the request of the prince, who is interested in ways in which the British economy might be diversified.

During his two-day stay in Dallas starting Monday, Prince Charles will not visit the Southfork Ranch, home of J.R. Ewing in the long-running Dallas television series.

Nor will his busy trip do much to cheer real-life Texas oil barons who have watched crude oil prices skid more than 40 per cent in the past three months, giving the Texas budget a record \$1.3 billion revenue shortfall.

But on the lighter side, the prince will cut the world's largest birthday cake, attend a foot-stamping country music performance and visit the battleground where Texas won its independence from Mexico 150 years ago.

Prince Charles will visit Texas without his wife, Princess Diana, who accompanied him on a trip to Washington.

In Dallas, he will tour the sprawling white Infocent, a year-old replica of London's 19th century Crystal Palace, which houses more than 50 computer and telecommunications wholesalers.

It offers an array of high-tech products and its gift shop sells computerised greeting cards.

British Queen starts Nepal visit Monday

KATHMANDU (R) — Threatening rains cast a cloud over the start of a visit to Nepal Monday by Britain's Queen Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip.

On Friday rain deluged this bustling temple city which is the capital of the world's only Hindu kingdom and on Sunday storm clouds again darkened the sky.

Nepalese officials said the late arrival of winter rains which can bring landslides and floods were their only worry for the five-day tour.

If the rain strikes Monday the elaborate arrival ceremony will be held in a hangar and plans for the queen to ride through the city in a horse-drawn carriage may be cancelled.

Several thousand people flocked to see a dress rehearsal last week of the carriage procession which will take the queen from the ornate wood-carved temples in the ancient heart of the city to the nearby palace of King Birendra.

Men worked through the night painting walls, levelling roads and putting up welcome arches along the route from the airport. Monday has been declared a public holiday.

Queen Elizabeth was the first reigning monarch to visit Nepal, cut off from the outside world by the vast Himalayan Mountains and deliberately isolated for centuries by its former rulers, when she came here in February 1961.

Although 25 years have brought roads and electricity to Nepal's remote mountain villages, cars on the streets of Kathmandu and even a national television network two months ago, the country is still the world's tenth poorest.

Despite the presence of thousands of foreign tourists trekking and climbing over giant mountains like Everest, the capital Kathmandu preserves its timeless character.

King Birendra is revered as a descendant of the Hindu God Vishnu and one of the queen's first stops is at the house of the "Kumari," a girl child thought to be a living goddess and prayed to annually by the king.

Unlike its giant southern neighbour India, Nepal was never colonised by the British.

But special ties date back to 1816, when Britain signed a treaty to recruit Gurkhas, soldiers from the mountains of Nepal who have become famed for their courage and help guard the queen at Buckingham Palace in London.

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Acid thrower receives death sentence

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladesh military court has sentenced a farmer to death and his two sons to life imprisonment for killing a neighbour with acid, police said. They said the three sprayed nitric acid on 23-year-old Enamul Haq (23) from a window as he slept in his home in western Jessore district last May following a land dispute. He died in hospital two days later. Another military court has jailed two young men for life and fined 1,000 taka (\$30) each for raping a woman at Dhaka's Mirpur Zoo last October, official BSS news agency said Sunday.

Canton bans ownership of dogs

PEKING (AP) — Dog ownership has been banned in the southern city of Canton and its outskirts, and those violating the law will be fined, a newspaper reported. The Yangcheng Evening News said that recent regulations banned all dogs except guard animals and dogs with other special uses. The report gave no reason for the new regulations, but the danger of rabies was the reason given for a ban on dog ownership in Peking in 1983. Officials said special extermination squads killed 200,000 dogs there. The state-run newspaper Peasant Daily reported Thursday that as many as quarter of China's dogs may be infected with rabies. After a rabies outbreak in Hunan province early last year, half of the 26,000 dogs in the affected area were killed. In Canton, anyone caught with a pet dog will be fined.

China film delayed by costume hunt

PEKING (R) — A \$20-million film being made by Italian Director Bernardo Bertolucci about China's last emperor has been delayed for two months by the hunt for 9,000 costumes, the director said Sunday. Bertolucci, who was looking at locations in Peking's former imperial palace, told reporters research work began 19 months ago on the costumes which were being bought, borrowed and made specially. "The costumes should not look too new, as they do in traditional Peking opera. They should look like clothes, not costumes," he said. The start of filming, originally due in April, is now scheduled for June, he said. It will last 20 weeks in at least five Chinese cities and studios in Peking and Rome. The film is based on an autobiography by Henry Pu Yi, who became emperor in 1908 at the age of three and was overthrown in 1911 when the Chinese Republic was founded. In 1934, he became "emperor" of a puppet state set up by the Japanese, was later tried as a war criminal and jailed in China for nine years until 1959. He died in 1967.

American women have little chance to marry after passing 30

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — If a college-educated woman in the United States isn't wed by the age of 30 these days, she has little chance of ever being married, says a recently completed study by a Yale University professor. Women in the United States appear to be sacrificing marriage for their careers and education, said Neil Bennett, an assistant professor of sociology and co-author of the yet unpublished study. "As they defer marriage it becomes less and less likely whether by choice or involuntarily, that they will ever marry. The marriage market may unfortunately be falling out from them," he said recently. The study was based on a U.S. Census Bureau survey of 70,000 households. Bennett said. The other authors of the study are Harvard economists Professor David Bloom and Yale sociologist Patricia Crane. In a recent interview with the advocate of Stamford, Bennett said he could not determine whether the failure of such women to marry was voluntary. "It's not clear whether women who hit 30 without marrying ever wanted to marry," he said. "We just don't have statistics on the desires of women at these ages." According to the study, 78 per cent of all college-educated women who are now between the ages of 25 and 29 will ever marry. Bennett said the traditional marriage rate for all women is about 90 per cent but that those historical statistics seem to break down in modern times.

Four blacks killed in South Africa protests

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Three blacks were killed when protests erupted in a township near Johannesburg while another person died during overnight unrest in Cape province, police said Sunday.

A spokesman said the bodies of two men were found in Alexandra township with gunshot wounds after blacks and police clashed repeatedly Saturday. On Saturday night police reported one black woman was killed in the unrest.

Doctors at a local clinic said

they treated a large number of casualties, including blacks with gunshot wounds and suffering from the effects of tear gas.

The protests in Alexandra, which lies close to some of South Africa's most affluent white suburbs, began after several thousand people attended a funeral.

Police said the burned body of a black man was found at Guguletu township near Cape Town. They reported sporadic protests and unrest in six other areas, but no casualties.

Tamil rebels to free British woman today

NEW DELHI (R) — A major Sri Lankan Tamil separatist guerrilla group said Sunday it planned to release Monday a British woman kidnapped four weeks ago as a suspected intelligence agent.

A spokesman for the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students (EROS) told Reuters in New Delhi by telephone that Penelope Eva Willis, 64, would be freed in Sri Lanka's northern Jaffna area to a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross and a British High Commission official.

Willis, who told the guerrillas she was a freelance journalist, was kidnapped on Jan. 18 near Jaffna by EROS, one of five major guerrilla groups fighting for an independent Tamil nation in the island's northern and eastern areas.

The decision was reached after the Sri Lankan government gave EROS a guarantee that its security forces would suspend all military activities in the area Monday, the spokesman said.

"We decided to free her on humanitarian grounds because of her age and appeals from several quarters ... (but) EROS makes it clear it will no more tolerate any further subversive methods, however old such agents may be," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile President Junius Jayewardene dismissed opposition calls for a quick election, saying polling would be held only in 1989.

He told a meeting Saturday that former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike, leader of Sri Lanka's main opposition Freedom Party was indulging in foolish talk about an immediate election and claims that she could wipe out guerrilla activity in 24 hours.

"Which fool will hold an election at this time," Mr. Jayewardene said in a reference to the unrest in the northern and eastern provinces where Tamil guerrillas are fighting for a separate state.

Bandaranaike said at a meeting in central province that she would press for elections this year.

Three civilians were killed by security forces during a guerrilla attack on the northern military base of Jaffna city Saturday, defence officials said.

Two soldiers were killed and four wounded when guerrillas ambushed a security patrol Sunday in Jaffna district, a Defence Ministry spokesman said.

He told Reuters that troops managed to beat back the attackers at Elephant Pass, about 60 kilometres from Jaffna.

Portuguese vote in presidential election

LISBON (R) — Voting began slowly in Portugal's presidential election run-off Sunday after polls opened in bad weather. Police were also on alert following the killing of the director of prisons on the eve of the vote.

Left-wing guerrillas claimed responsibility for the shooting in a Lisbon street Saturday night of Gaspar Castelo Branco, 53, the director of Portugal's Prison Service.

Interior Minister Eurico De Melo said he believed the murder, which the Popular Forces of April 25 (FP-25) said it carried out, would not affect voting. "Security measures have been taken as they would be for any election," he said.

In the capital, driving rain discouraged early voters and heavy rain and high winds were forecast over all the country.

Officials said the bad weather could increase abstentions among the 7.6-million-strong electorate, increasing the prospect of a close battle between the two presidential contenders, former Socialist Prime Minister Mario Soares and his rival, right-wing law professor Diogo Freitas Do Amaral.

A spokesman for FP-25, named after the date of Portugal's 1974 revolution, told a radio station Saturday night Castelo Branco was killed because of the treatment of guerrilla suspects in custody. He did not mention the election.

Mr. Soares and Mr. Freitas Do Amaral have called for a big turnout.

About 25 per cent of voters failed to go to the polls in the first round three weeks ago when two radical left-wingers were eliminated.

Although the candidates have drawn large, enthusiastic crowds during their campaigns, officials in both camps are worried many people may simply be fed up with voting after four elections in four months.

A low turnout should favour Mr. Soares, because the abstention rate is normally higher in the conservative north and among the right wing.

But the veteran Socialist leader, who polled 25 per cent of the first round poll against Mr. Freitas Do Amaral's impressive 46 per cent, needs to sweep up the votes of almost all those who chose a losing candidate in January.

The beaten candidates and the normally fragmented left have united in calling for a vote for Mr. Soares, but his aides are worried that some Communists, who despise Mr. Soares because of his strong anti-Communist stand since the 1974 revolution may prefer to abstain.

Under Portugal's semi-presidential constitution the head of state is not a policy maker so the campaign has been based on personalities rather than issues.

Mr. Soares, 61, has portrayed himself as a moderate, experienced leader, whose record of opposition to the former dictatorship shows his support of democracy, restored to Portugal only 12 years ago.

He has accused Mr. Freitas Do Amaral, a former Christian Democrat leader, of collaborating with the old regime by failing to fight it,

Curfew briefly lifted in old Delhi

NEW DELHI (R) — Police Sunday briefly lifted a curfew on Delhi's old walled city for the first time since Friday when Hindu-Muslim violence broke out there and spread to northern India, leading two people dead and 150 injured.

A police spokesman told Reuters the curfew, imposed after Muslims clashed with police over a court ruling giving Hindus access to a disputed shrine, was lifted for 90 minutes to allow residents to buy food.

The spokesman said the curfew was reimposed at 10 a.m. while top police officers decided whether to end the restrictions keeping people indoors.

One person was killed and more than 50 were injured in Friday's clashes in Delhi which spread Saturday to Srinagar, capital of the predominantly Muslim state of Jammu and Kashmir. Police said one person died and 100 were injured in Srinagar.

The clashes were set off by a court order reopening after 37 years a shrine claimed by both Hindus and Muslims in India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.

Hindus regard the shrine at Ayodhya, used since 1528 by Muslims as a mosque, as the birthplace of the God Rama.

Images of Rama were believed to have appeared in the mosque in 1949, causing Hindus to flock to the shrine and leading to its closure to head off communal riots.

1 dies in gas leak

At least one person was killed and three others were affected when carbon monoxide leaked from a factory tank in India's southern Tamil Nadu state Sunday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI said the incident occurred at the state-owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Factory in Tiruchirappalli town while the victims were cleaning the tank.

NASA releases new photos of shuttle explosion

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Space officials have released new photographs of the fiery destruction of the space shuttle Challenger and said astronauts might have received a warning from computers a split-second before they died.

"It was like a flash of lightning (on the cockpit computer screen) and there was no time for anybody to react to it," space agency spokesman George Diller said.

In one picture, smoke can be seen shooting from the side of the right booster rocket a half second after ignition.

Other shots show a tongue of flame licking from an apparent breach in the rocket only seconds before Challenger was consumed in a giant fireball.

Space agency spokesman Jim Mizell said computers detected a slight drop in the pressure of the booster rocket 62 seconds into the flight and tried in vain to compensate for the failure.

"The vehicle went up and down like a porpoise and then left and right during the last 11 seconds of

Soviet liner sinks in N. Zealand bay

WELLINGTON (R) — A Soviet cruise liner sank in a remote New Zealand Bay Sunday night but rescue officials said there were no immediate reports of casualties among about 800 people who had been on board.

They told Reuters that the 20,352-ton Mikhail Lermontov sank in 33 metres of water about five hours after it hit rocks and was holed in heavy rain and poor visibility.

The officials said reports coming in from the scene were confused as rescuers tried to ensure all passengers and crew were off the ship.

Poor radio reception and language difficulties caused communications problems with the Leningrad-registered ship before it sank.

Tom Smith, a farmer in the remote Port Gore area in the Marlborough Sounds at the northern tip of the South Island, said on radio he had watched the stricken

vessel trying to beach itself.

He said the ship was clearly listing on its port side as it approached the shore.

Smith said the rain hindered visibility but "it looks like a town with all the lights of the (rescue) boats."

The rescue fleet that raced to the area included one of the big train ferries that ply between the North and South Islands.

The Mikhail Lermontov, built in East Germany in 1972 and strengthened for use in ice, was crewed by 330 Russians and 10 Australians.

It cruises out of Sydney to New Zealand and the Pacific Islands during the southern hemisphere summer and had left Wellington Saturday night for the scenic Marlborough Sounds.

A search and rescue spokesman said the liner's chief officer had reported that all passengers and crew were off the ship when it sank.

"We're pretty confident there have been no casualties but we won't be absolutely certain until we can check numbers against a master list," he added.

The Cook Strait ferry Ahurahi reported it had picked up about 600 people — several of them elderly — from lifeboats and life rafts and a further 100 had been taken on board a bulk cement carrier which had been diverted to help, along with a New Zealand Naval Fisheries patrol boat.

"They're all in good health, though wet and cold," the spokesman said.

The rescue ships were heading for Wellington where police launched a midnight appeal for accommodation for the evacuees.

But search coordinators said the abandoned life rafts — drifting in the bay without warning lights — were a danger to small boats heading for the bay from surrounding settlements.

Investigators are looking into the possibility that sub-freezing temperatures may have damaged the booster seal, a component that had been cited in the past by space agency engineers as a potential safety hazard.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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A SHIFT IN TIME

Both vulnerable. East deals.
NORTH
♠ Q1072
♥ 93
♦ A J1053
♣ 102
WEST
♠ J53
♥ K4
♦ 972
♣ A Q743
EAST
♠ A986
♥ 1087652
♦ 6
♣ K8
The bidding:
East South West North
2 ♠ NT Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: King of ♠.
It has become fashionable to open weak two-bids on very poor suits. Occasionally these methods make life very difficult for the opponents, but they do backfire sometimes. This hand is from the final of the International Team Trials held recently in Memphis, Tenn.
In keeping with his system, East chose to open two hearts. North-South bounced into three no trump and West committed a cardinal sin—he led his partner's suit! That gave declarer three heart tricks and

five diamonds, and he set up his ninth trick by forcing out the ace of spades.

In the other room, too, the final contract was three no trump, but this time after a more straightforward auction starting with a one no trump opening bid by South. West made his normal opening lead of a low club, won by East, Chip Martel of San Francisco. Now, the routine play of a club return would give declarer a chance for his contract. Declarer would get a club trick and West would have no fast entry to his clubs. Since declarer could not risk a losing heart finesse, he would be forced to play East for the ace of spades and West for the jack. A finesse of the two of spades would give declarer two spade tricks, a heart, five diamonds and a club.